DOCTORAL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

e-Participation and Policy Modelling Platform for South Africa (ePPMOSA)

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

The University of KwaZulu-Natal was established in 2004 as a merger between the University of Natal and Durban-Westville. The University of KwaZulu-Natal consists of 5 main campuses, namely Edgewood, Howard College, Medical School, Pietermaritzburg, and Westville campus. The University's campuses have four colleges specialising in different trades and disciplines. The University of KwaZulu-Natal is inviting applications for Doctoral Scholarship under the Viability and Validation of Innovations for Service Delivery Programme (VVISDP). The opportunity is created for the period 2022-2025.

ABOUT THE VVISDP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Building a capable and developmental state is one of the six priorities outlined in the National Development Plan (Vision 2030). The realisation of this priority requires that the public sector, in particular municipalities, adopts innovations and uses technology to improve service delivery. The 2019 White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) echoes this call by proposing the creation of an enabling municipal/public sector policy environment for the adoption and upscaling of innovative technology solutions to improve the quality of basic services in government. The White Paper further recognises the need for an appreciation of STI in all spheres of government, and the use of STI in municipal planning, delivery, and operational processes.

In response, the Viability and Validation of Innovations for Service Delivery Programme (VVISDP) has been established as a programme by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) in partnership with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), with funding from the European Union Sector Budget Support Programme and the National Treasury. The programme is designed to help municipalities to pilot technology and innovations that could assist in improving the delivery of basic services and the functioning of municipalities through innovation.

Project 5: e-Participation and Policy Modelling Platform for South Africa (ePPMOSA) is one of six projects of the VVISDP. The project is being implemented jointly by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). One of the objectives of this project is to build the capacity of South African-based researchers to undertake research in e-participation and policy modelling. To that end, we invite applications from eligible candidates interested in working in the interdisciplinary field of e-participation in policy making and policy modelling situated in the South African context.

The ePPMOSA project draws on a variety of research and practice capabilities. The appointed Doctoral researchers will play an important research role in the wider ePPMOSA project, to better understand pathways to impact and explore e-participation and policy modelling design approaches. The researchers will be assigned to one of the following broad thematic research areas in consultation with supervisor(s):

- Monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of e-participation and policy modelling pilot projects.
- Framing, defining and conceptualising new ways for public participation and public relationships with policy actors in the context of digitally-mediated interactions.
- Governance and politics of e-participation in connection with local development priorities, Agenda 2063 of the Africa Union, and the Sustainable Development Goals
- e-Participation and policy modelling as it relates to multi-level governance and planning structures, such as the District Development Model.
- Re-framing technology and innovation for public participation in policy-making, supporting inclusive e-participation and policy modelling
- Technology design, implementation and operation for sustainable e-participation and policy-making in the South African context
- Change management and skills development for public officials and political representatives working with e-participation
- Evidence synthesis on e-participation and policy modelling.
- Defining conceptual design and frameworks for e-participation in the South African context.

DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Doctoral Scholarships provide support for up to 36 months with an allocation of R135 000.00 per annum. They are renewable subject to progress with research and good performance.

Minimum requirements for Doctoral researchers:
- Completed Masters degree
- Currently enrolled as a first-year PhD student or applying for a first-year PhD position.
- Research focus on community/ policy development informatics, human-computer interaction in the policy context, ICT in governance, e-Governance in public policy, e-participation, e-participation evaluation or public participation.
- Excellent writing skills
- Applicants should not be older than 45 years. Applicants older than 45 years may apply with an accompanying motivation.

Advantage
Evidence of having authored/co-authored peer-reviewed publications
Experience/training in Monitoring and Evaluation.

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GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE UKZN EPPMOSA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

In addition to the above, applicants must satisfy the following minimum entry criteria before applying (please note that failure to satisfy all requirements will lead to your application not being considered):

- Willing to register as a researcher at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The scholarship does not cover students who are interested in research topics outside the ePPMOSA areas.
- Successful applicants will be assigned a supervisor by the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Where applicable, a student may nominate or be assigned a co-supervisor from another higher education institution or publicly funded research institution in South Africa.
- You must be willing to work collaboratively under the supervision of supervisors in the ePPMOSA project.
- You must be prepared to engage in fieldwork linked to one of the South African municipalities participating in the project.
- Undertake the M&E activities related to the VVISD programme when required.

The following students are encouraged to apply: locally-based Black African, female and candidates studying or applying for studying on a full time

HOW TO APPLY AT UKZN

Applicants who meet all requirements can apply by submitting clear copies of the supporting documentation listed below. Any application with the missing document(s) will not be considered):

- A copy of the applicant's ID/passport. International applicants must be in possession of relevant permits. Successful applicants will be required to submit certified copies of these documents.
- Certificates (or degree completion letter) of all degrees (certified copy). SAQA certificate must be submitted if the degree was completed outside of South Africa.
- Full academic records (undergraduate and postgraduate).
- An updated curriculum vitae (CV) including at least three contactable references.
- Motivation letter explaining your interest in the research area and proposed research related to the above ePPMOSA themes (5 -10 pages maximum).
- Portfolio: Publications/Opinion pieces or evidence of related work experience to the proposed study area or topic.

Note: All documents must be clearly named and submitted as a zipped file.

Application process

Please submit your application documents to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc7EwNWsLr1UxKm1zQ0JNvBiF2wM7HPaU IFFsd2wUUVLqMmnA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0.

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Only applications submitted via the above link and by the closing date will be considered.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview.

For more information, contact Myenis1@ukzn.ac.za before **2 December 2022**. No enquiries will receive a response after this date.

Application closing date: 2 December 2022

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